



THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English **Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.**

Aruba Chamber of Commerce announces Economic Mission from Panama visit



Laureen Dix and Melitza Geerman

ORANJESTAD -- It was announced that on Thursday and Friday, August 25 and 26, Aruba will host an Economic Mission from Panama, which will include among its delegates the Vice-Minister of Foreign Commerce, Jose Domingo Arias. They will be received by Aruba's Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, and island businesses are encouraged to interact and network with the Panamanian impresarios. Panama is represented on Aruba by their consul, Anabel Arend-Mojica, who has expresses a strong desire to fortify liaisons between Aruba and Panama, and is convinced it will be mutually beneficial.

Chamber of Commerce outgoing Head of Business

Info and Support, Laureen Dix, invites island entrepreneurs, particularly those who import wholesale and retail goods and foodstuffs to the island, to meet with the Panamanian mission. "Panama is strategically located to distribute products from all over the world to the Caribbean, as well as being a source for comestibles and produce, which can be quickly transported to Aruba for less expense than Europe and the U.S." she informed media. Presently, Panama stands #3 in importing goods to Aruba, behind the U.S. and Holland.

The coordination of the two day session with the Panama Mission is being organized by the Chamber of Commerce; they expect the presence of at least ten Panamanian exporters, among

them a number specializing in fresh produce, seafood and a variety of dairy products.

This is the first time Aruba has received an economic mission from Panama; the result of a very successful commercial meeting between Aruba's Free Zone interests and Panamanian entrepreneurs last year under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. During that session, representatives of local concerns such as Aruba Bank, Romar Trading and Paperworks accompanied Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar to Panama, resulting in several productive and profitable negotiations and agreements.

Those interested in meeting with the Panama Mission should contact the Chamber of Commerce at telephone 582-1566 extension 27, 35 or 42 or via e-mail at business-info@arubachamber.com.

A footnote to the announcement of the Panama Mission was this will be the last project handled by Laureen Dix, as she is ending six years with the Chamber of Commerce to join the executive staff of Aruba Bank N.V. as Manager of Corporate Affairs. Melitza Geerman will be the Chamber's Business Info and Support Officer beginning September 1.

by Rosalie Klein

The first Aruban InselAir Fokker 50 has arrived!



The anxiously awaited InselAir Fokker 50 aircraft arrived in Aruba on Thursday, the 18th of August full of passengers from Curacao. The Fokker-50, which was acquired from KLM, is branded with the Aruba and InselAir logo.

This Fokker50 was a KLM Cityhopper registered as PH-KVG, now PJ-KVG and after re-registration for InselAir will become the P4-KVG.

The England division of KLM was responsible for preparing all four Fokker 50 for InselAir that were sent from Norwich to Curacao, after a final inspection done by the engineers of KLM-UK. The last of four Fokker 50's arrived on the 21st of July, 2011.

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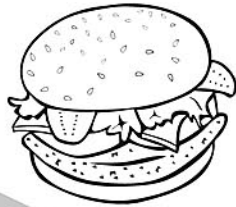
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Aruba Chamber of Commerce announces keynote speaker for 28th Annual Business Dinner

The Aruba Chamber of Commerce was proud to announce that this year's guest speaker for their annual Business Dinner Meeting will be noted educator and author Amar Bhidé, considered a leading authority on innovation, entrepreneurship and business strategy. He holds the position of Thomas Schmidheiny Professor at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Professor Bhidé completed his studies at Columbia University, Harvard Business School and the Chicago Graduate School of Business. He has held position as Senior Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company and was on the staff of the Brady Commission, which investigated the crash of the U.S. stock exchanges.

Professor Bhidé is also known as the author of the bestselling "The Venturesome Economy: How Innovation Sustains Prosperity in a More Connected World," and topic of discussion for the event will be "Sustaining the Venturesome Economy." He is also well known for "A Call for Judgment: Sensible Finance for a Dynamic Economy," and "The Origin and Evolution of New Businesses," which was translated



Amar Bhidé

to Spanish along with a number of other books and papers. He won the Association of American Publishers' PROSE Award for Professional and Scholarly Excellence in Business, Finance, and Management, and was in the "Best of 2008" lists of the Economist, BusinessWeek and Barrons.

The Chamber of Commerce feels Professor Bhidé will prove a most appropriate and enlightening speaker during the annual event, as they feel that innovation, and diversification are essential to Aruba's economic development and sustainability. His

visit will coincide with a number of related activities taking place on the island and segue into the Innovation Entrepreneurship Workshop to be conducted by the Chamber of Commerce and the second edition of their international expo "Destination Innovation."

The Annual Business Dinner Meeting will take place on Friday evening, September 30. Tickets for the event, including dinner, are 175 Aruban florins, or \$100 per person; on sale at the Chamber of Commerce on Irausquin Blvd. To reserve a place all the Chamber of Commerce at 582-1120 extension 34 or 41.

by Rosalie Klein

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for Local News in English

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Local companies should recruit Aruban professionals living in Holland



ORANJESTAD -- A few weeks ago a large group of Aruban young people left Aruba for further study in the Netherlands. It has been proven statistically that a large percentage of these young people will not return to their island upon completion of their studies. Many will chose to take on challenges in the Netherlands or elsewhere that they believe they will not find here in Aruba. Others will choose to stay in Holland longer to acquire more experience or to use the money they will earn in the Netherlands to begin repaying their educational loan. However, whatever the reason for not returning, it is true that these young people would prefer above all else to return home. It is in this vein that our local Aruban companies need to find ways to recruit these young people and lure them back to Aruba.

A group of Aruban "Young Professionals" living in the Netherlands believes that this is something that they can contribute to. "Flinks" is a company run by two Arubans and a Curacao colleague who also left their islands to study in the Netherlands. Following their education they established a company for the purpose of recruiting professionals to return to Aruba, Curacao and the other

Dutch islands in the Caribbean. This group is organizing a major and unique event in Rotterdam. The purpose of the event is to help Aruban companies to get in touch with professionals, students and former Aruban students residing in the Netherlands.

Through this means they wish to create a platform for Aruban companies to meet Aruban professionals and vice versa. The event, dubbed "Aruba Recruitment Event" or simply "ARE" will be held in Rotterdam at the beginning of December. Preparation for the event is in full swing.

This week the group began a series of presentations with the support of the government of Aruba, who believes in the imitative. The benefits for Aruba being able to recruit our own Aruban professionals are many. A group of representatives of local companies, including banks, the utility companies and insurance companies attended the event to receive all the relevant information regarding the plans of the ARE group.

Similar events were carried out in the past, but none had a specific focus on local companies who could recruit our professionals to return to Aruba to work.

Continued on page 4

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Local companies should recruit

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They will also conduct various symposiums and information sessions to inform Aruban professionals about the benefits, and procedures they must follow and take into account when returning to Aruba. Included in this information will be matters like the repayment of their study loan and other topics that Dutch professionals in Holland cannot give them.

On Wednesday they began a series of presentations beginning with our banks and insurance companies. On Thursday and Friday they continued with other companies. On Friday they met with the Public Health sector. Many of our local companies have given indication of their interest and support for the "Aruba Recruitment Event."

Diego Frankel, general director of FATUM in Aruba, expressed his satisfaction with this type of event and with the focus on bringing back Aruban professionals to Aruba. He was pleased to see that ARE in addition to being a Job Fair is also holding information sessions for students, which he says is extremely important. This makes it more attractive for Aruban professionals to want to return to Aruba.

"Bringing Arubans back home is certainly something we must support," says Ivan Nava, Senior Manager of Human Resources at RBTT.

Eman pleased with tight competition in XPS

RICHMOND -- Few would argue that Extreme Pro Stock is one of the most competitive fields in all of drag racing, and the teams that compete in XPS know that all too well. Trevor Eman and the Aruba.com Team are part of the competition that makes the class so tough. At the ADRL Speedtech U.S. Drags, the competitiveness of the class even bit a few of the top running teams, putting them out early and shaking things up.

Eman landed his best qua-

lifying effort so far in 2011 with a 4.104 at 175.11 to place him fifth. The tight 16 car field was separated by less than six hundredths, making it anyone's race in eliminations.

The Aruba.comTeam team had high hopes for race day but was disappointed when the car fell off the pace in round one against Bert Jackson. Jackson and Eman were nearly identical on the tree, but Eman's 4.158 was edged out by Jackson's 4.142.

"I'm proud of our team for

their hard work this past weekend," said Eman. "We had our best qualifying effort so far this year. We were certainly expecting to go a couple of rounds after that, but things didn't workout for us. I know our day in the winner's circle is coming soon. We just have to keep working at it."

"I'd like to compliment the ADRL for getting the race in completely, despite the weather that scared everybody. Despite that, and even some mishaps on the track,

they were able to keep everything flowing to give the crowd a good show. They also did a great job with the racing surface, as they always do. My hat is off to the ADRL team."

"I think this past weekend was some of the best racing I have ever seen in XPS. First of all, the field was really tight, and everybody was making good runs down the track. It's amazing that despite the Pro Stock racers having different chassis setups, different motor tune

ups, different clutches and transmission combinations and also different driving habits, the field was a 0.058 seconds difference between number 1 and 16 qualifiers. If that isn't one of the most competitive fields in all of drag racing's different classes, then I don't know what is. It's definitely an awesome class to race, and certainly will give a lot of satisfaction when to win one. I am looking forward to that day for our Aruba.com team!"

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The 7 Ways you can ruin a new employee -- Part II

Yesterday I presented 4 of the 7 ways I believe an employer can ruin a new employee. Apparently that article spoke to many employers considering the many email responses I received with positive comments and questions. One employee remarked how he recalls his first days at the company he once worked for. He shared something of the suspicion he felt during their introduction of him to the company.

Today I want to conclude the article with the remaining 3 ways that an employer can ruin a new employee. The bottom line in all of the seven ways is to remember always that the employee you hire was hired to work, all the other things you do in those first days of his time with you may be very important, but they should never detract from or confuse the new employee about the primary objective for his being with your company...he is there to work, period. In that context, as important as those other things may be, those he will learn, he will gather, he will acclimatize to in due course!

Now let's go to the 5th (refer to the article in yesterday's paper for the first 4) way you can ruin a new employee. By the way, you may have noticed that each of the ways listed begins with the letter W...that should help you with the recall of the 7 ways later on:

5. Wasted waiting moments in the interview process. Grant you, I know it is difficult to coordinate new employee orientation and training. Interviewers, human resource man-

agers, trainers, and mentors get delayed or called away. But, when that happens, what message are you sending that new employee? It is very probable that that new employee who is sitting there waiting on you to come or to come back may decide you don't value continual performance, or his time. To avoid this embarrassment to you and to a new employee, cut through the chase quickly and set the employee to work, orientation can always be conducted at some later time when you really have the time and can sit down calmly with the new employee and give him the info he needs.

That new employee needs to learn right at the outset that job description is important but mission is everything....and he came to help you fulfill your mission! Get and keep him busy.

6. Welcome modifications and changes from new employees. You will agree that there is always some better way to perform just about any task. Certainly! However, if you allow new employees to "re-invent the wheel" before they fully understand how the wheel in your company actually spins you will ruin them before they even get started right. Remember, that new employee potentially will be with you for a long time, hence he will have all the time in the world to suggest changes and implement modifications as he learns the ropes and fully understands what your mission as a company is. So, you need to, right off, be polite, and ask that new employee to hold their ideas for now and just do as

they are told...a lot can and will happen later down the road!

7. Wire new employees for Empowerment and authority. If you begin talking about empowerment to a new employee you are making a big mistake...that will ruin him. Every new employee must learn that empowerment is a privilege, not a right. Empowerment and authority is something every employee should earn. They need to earn the right to make major decisions and to take on additional authority. They must earn the right to be given latitude and discretion; they don't just get this bestowed on them on orientation day. Earned empowerment is the only valid empowerment culture. Obviously, you understand that this principle does not apply to someone being hired as a top executive in a company.

Finally I conclude: An employee's accountability and responsibility should always precede privilege. As a responsible and intelligent employer you need to give new employees the tools they need to succeed. Then make them earn greater authority and privilege. You and the employee will be glad you did things this way. So, be careful not to ruin your new and prospective winning employee with the above 7 ways.

If this article was helpful, I would be encouraged to know. Or, maybe you disagree with me on one or more of the 7 ways...let me know,

Thanks. tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com

Exemption AZV insurance persons of independent means



ORANJESTAD -- The conditions for persons of independent means to qualify for an exemption from the AZV insurance obligation will be eased by means of a legislative amendment.

This amendment implies that a foreign person of independent means qualifies for an exemption from the AZV, if he/she can prove that he/she:

- has been admitted to Aruba as a person of independent means based on a valid permit; and

- has a valid medical insurance in his/her country of origin, which insurance covers the costs of emergency care abroad.

In anticipation of this legislative amendment, the Executive Body will process exemption requests from persons of independent means accordingly.

At present, persons of independent means who already filed an exemption request in the past, which request was re-

jected based on the former policy, could possibly qualify for an exemption pursuant to this new policy. They may file a new request to that end with the AZV Executive Body, attn.: the Board. If the request is granted, the exemption will not take effect until June 28, 2011.

An exemption from the AZV insurance obligation leads to it that the person concerned is not obligated to pay contributions and also is not entitled to care at the expense of the AZV.

As regards any person not falling under the category of persons of independent means and residing in Aruba based on a valid permit, the Executive Body will still only grant an exemption from the AZV, if there is question of the AZV overlapping with a foreign medical insurance that, just like the AZV, is based on a foreign statutory regulation and at least grants benefits similar to those of the AZV.

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Sci-Tech

Climate change forces species to move fast: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Climate change appears to be forcing many of the world's creatures to migrate to more favorable locales up to three times faster than previously believed, a study said.

Researchers compiled past studies on species migration and combined them into a meta-analysis that showed a clear trend toward cooler climates, with the fastest moves in places where heating was most intense.

"These changes are equivalent to animals and plants shifting away from the equator at around 20 centimeters per hour, for every hour of the day, for every day of the year," said project leader Chris Thomas, biology professor at the University of York.

"This has been going on for the last 40 years and is set to continue for at least the rest of this century."

The study, which appears in the journal *Science*, was described by York ecology professor and co-author Jane Hill as "a summary of the state of world knowledge about how the ranges of species are responding to climate change."

The data came from studies of birds, mammals, reptiles,

insects, spiders and plants in Europe, North America, Chile, Malaysia, and South Africa's Marion Island.

By grouping the studies together and analyzing their results, researchers found for the first time a link between how hot it was getting and where organisms were moving.

"This research shows that it is global warming that is causing species to move towards the poles and to higher elevations," said lead author I-Ching Chen, now a researcher at the Academia Sinica in Taiwan.

Previous studies have suggested that some species are at risk for extinction due to their change in habitat, but this study did not delve into which species might be most in peril.

"Realization of how fast species are moving because of climate change indicates that many species may indeed be heading rapidly towards extinction, where climatic conditions are deteriorating," said Thomas.

"On the other hand, other species are moving to new areas where the climate has become suitable; so there will be some winners as well as many losers."

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Are humans to blame for shark attacks?

PARIS (AFP) - An apparent increase in shark attacks may well have a human cause, with low-cost air travel but also over-fishing and possibly global warming among the hidden suspects, say experts.

Headlines this week were grabbed by a decision to close beaches in the Seychelles after a shark savaged a British honeymooner before the horrified gaze of his spouse, in the second fatal attack there in 15 days.

In Russia's Pacific coastal region of Primorye, a shark mauled a 16-year-old boy a day after a man lost his forearms defending his wife. In the Caribbean, a woman vacationing in Puerto Rico received a 30-centimetre (foot-long) shark bite as she swam in a tourist haunt, the bioluminescent bay of Vieques.

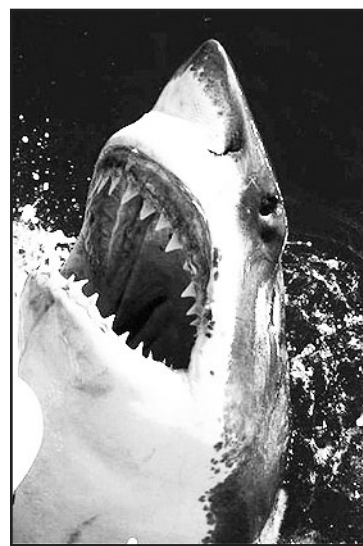
According to the International Shark Attack File (ISAF), compiled at the University of Florida, 79 unprovoked shark assaults occurred around the world in 2010, six of which were fatal.

This was the highest number in a decade, amounting to an increase of 25 percent on 2009, when there were 63 attacks with six fatalities, and 49 percent over 2008, which had 53 recorded attacks, four of them mortal.

So far this year, there have been six deaths and seven cases of injuries, according to an unofficial toll compiled by AFP from news reports.

Compared to deaths from smoking, road accidents, lightning strikes or even from other animals, the risk is minute, say experts.

"The attention from shark attacks is completely overblown," said Agathe Lefranc, a scientist with a French group, the Association for the



Study and Conservation of Salachians (APECS), a category that includes sharks and rays.

Marine biologists say there is little research into the causes of shark attacks but point to several possibilities, all linked to humans themselves.

No. 1 is quite simply the growth in mobility, with cheap air travel and package vacations enabling people to swim, snorkel, surf or dive in places that previously had no human presence.

David Jacoby, a specialist at the Marine Biological Association (MBA) in Plymouth, southwestern England, said shark attacks were events that had local causes and often were poorly investigated, if at all.

One case that stands out occurred in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where sharks made five attacks in a week in November-December last year, one of which was fatal.

The finger of blame was pointed at a passing livestock transport ship that had dumped sheep carcasses overboard and at operators who illegally fed sharks to

thrill the tourists.

Another question -- but again, lacking sufficient data to answer it -- is the impact on shark behaviour from over-fishing and from global warming, which affects ocean temperatures and currents.

"We know that these animals are opportunistic and they go to where food sources are available, and those resources do move, and they are dependent on currents, nutrient-rich patches," said Jacoby.

"It's not just sharks that do this, but all large pelagic predators are drawn to areas where there is high food availability. But whether this is a case of increased human activity is unclear."

A hugely successful fish in evolutionary terms, with a lineage dating back more than 400 million years, the shark is under relentless attack from humans themselves.

A third of open-water shark species, including the great white and the hammerhead, are facing extinction, driven in part by demand in Asia for shark-fin soup, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Health & Living

Ecstasy could treat cancer: researchers

LONDON (AFP) - Researchers in Britain revealed Friday they are exploring whether the nightclubbers' drug ecstasy could be effective in treating blood cancers.

Scientists at the University of Birmingham in central England said modified forms of the drug boosted its ability to destroy cancerous cells by 100 times.

Six years ago, researchers found that cancers affecting white blood cells appeared to respond to certain "psychotropic" drugs.

These included weight loss pills, Prozac-type antidepressants, and amphetamine derivatives such as MDMA -- commonly known as ecstasy.

The Birmingham scientists said their discoveries since then could lead to MDMA derivatives being used in patient trials.

The derivatives could be effective in treating blood

cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

"This is an exciting next step towards using a modified form of MDMA to help people suffering from blood cancer," said Professor John Gordon, from the university's School of Immunology and Infection.

"While we would not wish to give people false hope, the results of this research hold the potential for improvements in treatments in years to come."

The team found that the dose of MDMA required to treat a tumor would prove fatal, so they set about isolating the drug's cancer-killing properties.

They are now looking at ways to get MDMA molecules to penetrate cancer cell walls more easily.

Doctor David Grant, scientific director of the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research charity, which part-funded the study, said: "The prospect of being able to target blood cancer with a drug derived from ecstasy is a genuinely exciting proposition."

"Many types of lymphoma remain hard to treat and non-toxic drugs which are both effective and have few side effects are desperately needed."

The findings are published in the bi-monthly journal Investigational New Drugs.

Health Tip:

When Alcohol Affects Your Life

-- When alcohol adversely affects your relationships, your work or your home life, it's time to take a look at your drinking habits.

The American Academy of Family Physicians says warning signs of problem drinking may include:

- Driving after drinking, getting a ticket while driving under the influence, or having car accidents.
- Feeling anxious, depressed or suspicious.
- Having problems with relationships that appear alcohol-related.
- Developing problems with self-esteem and generally taking poor care of yourself.
- Having difficulty sleeping, or finding it difficult to keep up at work.
- Noticing that your hands are trembling.
- Missing work due to being hung over.
- Blacking out or experiencing memory loss.



India's top court allows 'passive euthanasia'

NEW DELHI — India's Supreme Court ruled that life support can be legally removed for some terminally ill patients in a landmark ruling that will allow "passive euthanasia" for the first time.

The judgement came during a hearing into the case of former nurse Aruna Shanbaug, who has been in a vegetative state in a Mumbai hospital since being raped and strangled with a chain while at work 37 years ago.

A plea by journalist and friend Pinki Virani to stop her being force-fed was rejected by India's top court on the grounds that Virani was not eligible to make the demand on Shanbaug's behalf.

But withdrawing life support could be allowed under exceptional circumstances, provided the request was from family and supervised

by doctors and the courts, a two-judge bench in the Supreme Court said.

"We agree ... that passive euthanasia should be permitted in our country in certain situations," the court said in its ruling, adding that "we are laying down the law... until parliament makes a law on the subject".

The ruling gives some legal clarity in India in an area that has posed legislators and judges all over the world with moral dilemmas thrown up by modern medicine which can keep alive severely injured or handicapped people.

In the case of a person in a permanent vegetative state and unable to speak for themselves, such as Shanbaug, a request to withdraw life support should come from family or a spouse, the court in

New Delhi ruled.

The request should then be reviewed by the local High Court, which would rely on the opinion of a court-appointed panel of three doctors who would examine the patient and speak to hospital staff.

The supervision was required to prevent "unscrupulous" family members attempting to kill off wealthy relatives, the Supreme Court said.

Laws on euthanasia or assisted suicide, in which patients are helped by doctors to end their own lives, vary across the world.

In Europe, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Belgium



Indian laws do not permit euthanasia or self-starvation to the point of death

have legalised it under strict conditions, while in Switzerland a doctor can provide a patient who wants to die with lethal medication that the patient takes by him or herself.

In India the only exception to the law on self-starvation is the religious practice of "santhara," which sees elderly believers from India's minority Jain religion give up food and water until death.

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Reports: Maid sought to settle Strauss-Kahn case

NEW YORK (AFP) - US prosecutors are looking into claims that the lawyer for a hotel maid accusing former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn of sexual assault offered to hinder criminal proceedings in return for a pay-off, reports said yesterday.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources, said Kenneth Thompson, the lawyer for Sofitel hotel maid Nafissatou Diallo, said he would work to see that the criminal trial foundered in return for a civil settlement.

A similar story in the online Daily Beast news site quoted unnamed sources close to the case saying that settlement talks took place in mid to late June.

The prosecutor's office said it had no comment on the reports. There was no immediate reply to a request for confirmation from lawyers for Diallo and Strauss-Kahn about the claims. If true, the reports would raise further doubts about Diallo's credibility ahead of a key hearing on Tuesday at which prosecutors are expected to announce whether or not they intend to pursue the case.

The arrest of Strauss-Kahn in May on charges of attempting to rape the housekeeper sent shock waves through France -- where he was a leading politician -- and the Inter-

national Monetary Fund, from which he soon resigned.

But the prosecution's case has unraveled in recent weeks after the New York District Attorney's office said there were problems with Diallo's credibility, a key factor in a trial where she would be the main prosecution witness.

The Journal reported that prosecutors had requested that Thompson -- who filed a civil suit against Strauss-Kahn on Diallo's behalf last week -- supply them with information about any settlement negotiations. The newspaper said Thompson denied any claims of settlement talks and quoted him as saying: "We look forward to trying this case before a jury."

Diallo has accused Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her on May 14 in his suite at the Sofitel hotel in Manhattan, and the civil suit filed earlier this month, seeking unspecified damages, accuses him of a pattern of assaulting women in hotel rooms.

Strauss-Kahn has denied the allegations, and his lawyers have said Diallo, a Guinean immigrant, fabricated the claims in order to extract payment.

Prosecutors say Diallo lied about being raped in her native Guinea, or changed the story, filed a false tax return and lied on her asylum application. If

correct, these revelations would likely give ammunition to Strauss-Kahn's lawyers during cross-examination, when the defense has only to show reasonable doubt.

Guyana moves to counter rise in gold mining crime

GEORGETOWN (AFP) - Guyana's police said yesterday they have sent reinforcements to remote gold mining areas to counter an increase in crime as the precious metal has hit record prices above \$1,800 an ounce.

"It definitely has to do with the increased price for gold," Police Commissioner Henry Greene told AFP after a string of robberies and murders, including a miner and his son killed in an argument over money.

Greene declined to say how many reinforcements had been deployed, but confirmed that two new police stations were under construction and that all-terrain vehicles had been sent in to aid the crackdown.

Most of those killed and robbed have been Brazilians, many of them working illegally in the lawless forests.

Colombia mediator with FARC to flee country

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) - Former Colombian senator Piedad Cordoba, a prominent hostage mediator between the government and FARC rebels, plans to leave the country after threats on her life, a colleague said yesterday.

"She received information about an imminent plan to assassinate her. In this context, she told us she was leaving the country," Ivan Cepeda, a member of Cordoba's organization Colombians for Peace, told local radio stations.

He told AFP she may have left Thursday afternoon, but did not have any further details on where she was going or for how long.

Cepeda said the threats against the leftist Cordoba had intensified following her public rift with former rightwing president Alvaro Uribe, who on Thursday told a congressional committee that his government had investigated Cordoba's links to alleged Venezuelan meddling in the country.

Uribe had tense relations with Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chavez, whom he accused of sheltering FARC militants, charges denied by Caracas.

Uribe's successor, President Juan Manuel Santos, has sought to mend ties between the two neighboring countries.



Piedad Cordoba

Cordoba's lawyer, Luis Guillermo Perez, confirmed she has been receiving threats, telling local media that "the intimidation has been constant, and she was told an attack was being planned to kill her."

Since 2007, Cordoba has served as a mediator in hostage negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) -- Latin America's oldest rebel movement -- and the government it has been at war with since 1964.

But Colombia's Congress expelled her last November, saying she had gone too far and was aiding the leftwing rebel group. She has since repeatedly said that her life is in danger from Uribe's supporters.

Freak storm kills five at Belgian rock fest



BELGIUM, Hasselt : AFP photo shows people looking yesterday at one of the two stages of the Belgian outdoor rock festival Pukkelpop that collapsed the day before during a violent storm, killing five people and left three more fighting for life. Ten were seriously injured with three in critical condition, including two Dutch citizens, after two giant stages collapsed, whole trees were uprooted and hailstones "the size of golf balls" rained down on petrified youngsters, witnesses said. Organisers promptly cancelled the sold-out three-day festival, thus calling a halt to planned performances by global names such as Eminem and the Foo Fighters. In total 140 people had received medical treatment.

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Kim Kardashian's wedding: big business



LOS ANGELES — Call it wholly monetized matrimony. Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are set to be married today in a lavish, made-for-TV celebration of love, devotion and product-placement.

The reality-TV bombshell and her pro-basketball boyfriend will wed at a canyon estate in the tony seaside town of Montecito, near Santa Barbara, Calif. The exact location of the black-tie ceremony has been kept secret, but everything else about the extravaganza -- the dress designer, the cake maker, the stationer, the gift registry, the Kardashian-brand perfume -- has been touted 'til death do us part on celebrity websites, entertainment shows and Kardashian's own blog and Twitter pages. The bridesmaids are even wearing green.

The ceremony and everything leading up to it will be featured in a two-part special on E!, the same network that airs "Keeping Up with the Kar-

dashians" and its spinoffs, "Khloe & Lamar," "Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami" and "Kourtney and Kim Take New York."

The special won't air for two months, though, prompting Online card company someecards.com to offer a greeting that reads: "Here's hoping Kim Kardashian's marriage lasts until her wedding special airs in October."

FOR those lucky enough to score an invite to the wedding, the reality star wants a say in what you're going to wear. She has offered some strict instructions to her wedding guests, telling the lucky invitees they are only allowed to wear black or white - with no exceptions.

Wedding guest, Kathie Lee Gifford, said this may be a sign the star will buck the trend of a traditional white gown when she sashays down the aisle to marry Kris Humphries.

"Kim knows better than anyone how to stay dramatic and there is no way she would let herself blend in with everyone else at her wedding by wearing a white dress," Gifford said. "If I know her, I bet she will wear red or some color so she pops against everyone else who will be in black or white."

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Kia awarded three environmental certificates by TÜV Nord

- All-new Kia Picanto, Rio and Optima granted ISO 14040 (LCA) status
- Models certified for low environmental impact throughout their lifecycles
- Efficient engines and vehicle production methods contribute to success
- Newcomers join Sportage CUV and Kia's Zilina production facility in receiving independent TÜV recognition



SEOUL -- Kia Motors Corporation has been awarded three environmental certificates by TÜV Nord, an independent technical inspection organization, in recognition of the strong eco-credentials of its three newest models.

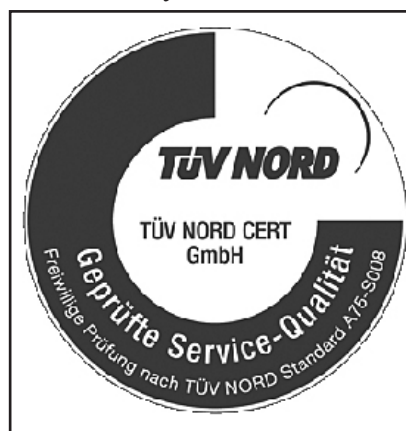
The low tailpipe emissions of the new Kia Picanto, Rio and Optima, and the advanced manufacturing processes used in their production, resulted in all three models being certified according to the ISO 14040 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

The LCA inspection examines the environmental impact of both the car and its overall manufacturing process throughout the course of its lifetime, taking into account factors such as choice of materials, engine exhaust emissions and recycling.

Benny Oeyen, Vice President Marketing and Product Planning, Kia Motors Europe, commented, "Kia models continue to receive recognition from a wide range of independent industry organisations across the globe -- for the quality and efficiency of their production methods, for achieving the highest levels of safety and for their striking design."

"Kia is deeply committed to minimizing its vehicles' impact on the environment, and this latest honor follows similar accreditations for the striking new Sportage and for

our state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Zilina," concludes Oeyen.



All three of the Kia models accredited this month offer competitive running costs, and, in the case of the all-new Rio B-segment hatchback, the lowest CO2 output (from just 85 g/km) of any car currently on sale in Europe.

Kia's manufacturing facility in Zilina was certified in 2008 as an 'environmentally-friendly' facility, earning an ISO 14001 international certificate

of environmental management. The plant employs cutting-edge technology to ensure that production and waste-management have a minimal impact on the environment. The Kia Sportage compact CUV, which is manufactured at Zilina as well as in Korea, was also awarded LCA status by TÜV Nord in 2010.

Topcar N.V., is the exclusive KIA distributor for Aruba, and has a long history of excellent in service. For more information regarding sales, service, models, parts and garage service feel free to call at tel. 582-1547 or 582-3747 and/or visit their showroom at Caya Ernesto Petronia # 21.



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MARK OF A GENIUS

ACROSS

1. Take a ____ at (attempt)
5. Fluffy's foot
8. Article for Goethe
11. Marlene's "Blue Angel" role
12. Landed
14. Gold: Sp.
15. Part I of a three-part Einstein quote
18. Press
19. Bea, to Prince Edward
20. Total
21. Do body shop work
22. Popular '70s

hairdo

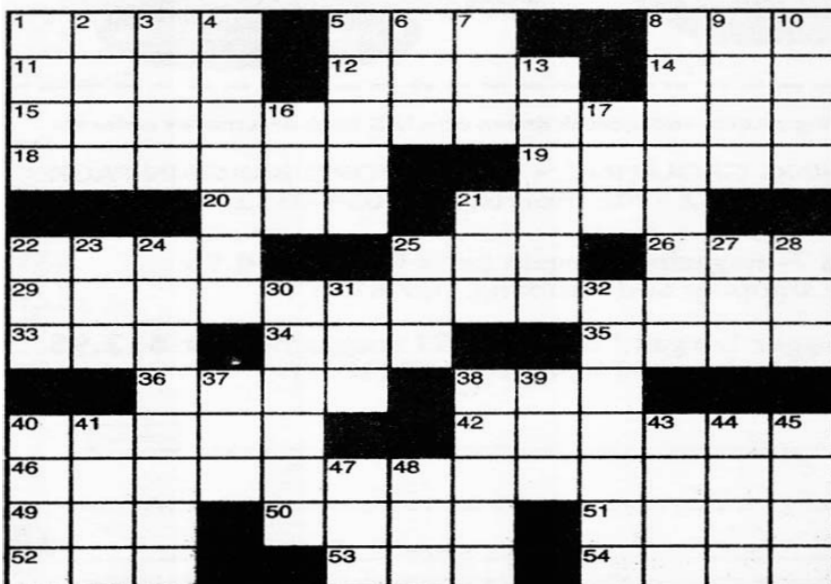
25. Betrayal discoverer's shout
26. Hard-to-find shoe width
29. Part II of quote
33. Sport ____ (4WD vehicle)
34. Previously named
35. Tina's "30 Rock" costar
36. Part of A&E
38. Donkey
40. Mead's laboratory
42. More inquisitive
46. Part III of quote

49. Trip around the track
50. Lab lamp
51. Not fatty
52. Archaic: abbr.
53. Part of HMS
54. Right-minded

DOWN

1. Svelte
2. Tony Musante TV series
3. Actor Rachins
4. Traveler's loss
5. "To Tell the Truth" group
6. ____ française
7. Zinger flinger
8. Fait accompli
9. Actor Blore
10. "Second Hand ____"

13. Tone deaf one's feature
16. Affliction
17. Jed Clampett's discovery
21. Doctor of the BBC
22. Mustangs' sch.
23. Very fashionable
24. Tourist guide illustrations
25. Orangutan, e.g.
27. Compass dir.
28. Catchall abbr.
30. Entrance for fluid
31. Middle: prefix
32. Fez accessories
37. L. ____ Hubbard
38. Egypt's Sadat
39. The sun, to an astronomer
40. Normandy town
41. Ishmael's boss
43. Birth of a notion
44. Actor Richard
45. Lacoste or Auberjonois
47. Certain degree
48. Number of stars for a brigadier general



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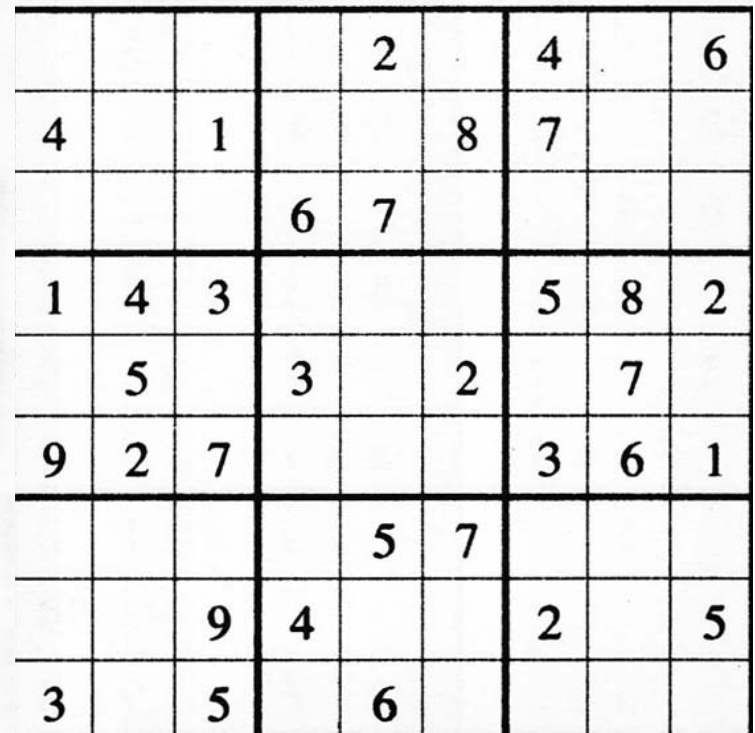
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

L	7	8	6	9	2	5	1	3
5	1	2	8	7	6	4	9	3
3	6	9	2	5	1	7	8	4
1	9	5	7	8	4	2	6	3
7	4	6	2	1	3	9	5	8
2	8	5	9	6	4	7	1	3
8	3	1	7	4	9	2	6	5
6	2	4	8	5	1	9	7	3
9	5	7	1	2	6	8	3	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.




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Finance

Investors seeking safety push gold to record highs

LONDON (AFP) - Gold spiked to another all-time high this week as slumping global stock markets sent investors fleeing for the safe-haven precious metal while industrial commodities dived on the back of a weak demand outlook.

World equities took another beating on Friday but after massive losses there were some signs of stabilisation as investors tentatively looked for bargains.

Investment bank Morgan Stanley on Thursday warned that the United States and Europe stood dangerously close to recession and that growth in the big emerging economies would be slower than expected.

The bank said a slow European response to the eurozone's mounting sovereign debt problems and the US political battle over raising its debt ceiling had hit financial markets and eroded both business and consumer confidence.

Morgan Stanley cut its global economic growth forecast to 3.9 percent in 2011 from the previous 4.2 percent, and to 3.8 percent from 4.2 percent in 2012, mainly due to the stagnation in advanced economies.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold hit a record \$1,878.15 an ounce on Friday, capping a record-breaking week as recession fears mounted.

OIL: World oil prices fell

sharply as a new global recession risks reducing demand for energy but then clawed back some lost territory heading into the weekend.

London Brent sank as low as \$105.06 per barrel and New York hit \$79.17 on Friday before both contracts rebounded somewhat.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or light sweet crude for September dropped to \$83.04 a barrel from \$86.63 the previous week.

BASE METALS: Base or industrial metals sank markedly on the back of spreading fears of another vicious global downturn.

Bank of America to cut 3,500 jobs

Bank of America

NEW YORK (AFP) - Bank of America, the biggest US bank, will cut about 3,500 jobs by the end of September, a company spokesman said Friday.

BofA spokesman Scott Silvestri said the reductions are being made "to meet the opportunities in the marketplace," and not part of a drive to refocus the bank, which posted a second-quarter \$9.1 billion loss due to a settlement over subprime mortgage claims.

"The reductions are not part of a companywide initiative (New BAC) announced earlier this year which is focused on driving our customer-oriented strategy and financial results," he said.

The spokesman said the international company, the largest US bank by deposits, began notifying employees recently.

The latest round of job cuts, which Silvestri said

were across all lines of the bank's business, is in addition to about 2,500 reductions made so far this year, he said.

BofA operates in more than 40 countries and had about 288,000 employees on December 31, 2010, according to its annual report.

The spokesman did not mention plans for additional cuts.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that "at least 10,000 jobs are likely to be eliminated," citing a person familiar with the situation.

On Monday BofA announced it would sell its \$8.6 billion credit card portfolio in Canada to TD Bank Group and end European card activities.

The bank, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, said it would exit its credit card businesses in Britain and Ireland, which combined have \$12 billion in loans and more than 4,000 employees.

HP shares plunge on Wall Street

NEW YORK (AFP) - Hewlett-Packard shares plunged 20 percent on Wall Street on Friday after the world's top personal computer maker announced a strategic shakeup that includes spinning off its PC business.

Shares in the Palo Alto, California-based company were down 20.43 percent at \$23.48 in early afternoon trading, wiping more than \$12 billion off the firm's market capitalization.

HP announced Thursday it was exploring a spinoff of its PC unit, or Personal Systems Group (PSG), and buying British enterprise software company Autonomy for \$10.24 billion as it refocuses on software and technology solutions.

In a further move away from the consumer space, HP said that it was stopping production of its TouchPad tablet computer, its rival to Apple's iPad that was introduced just seven weeks ago, and phones based on the webOS mobile operating system acquired from Palm last year for \$1.2 billion.

Deutsche Bank analysts said the HP moves raised "red flags" and recommended that investors sell the stock.

Shaw Wu of Sterne, Agee & Leach expressed concern that HP "may be stretched thin trying to do too many things at the same time including its purchase of Autonomy, shutdown of its webOS hardware operation, not to mention deal-

ing with the uncertainty around its PC business."

Credit Suisse said HP's moves were "fundamentally" the correct strategy but warned that "it's going to be expensive."

Gregori Volokhine of Meeschaert Capital Markets said a number of HP's past acquisitions have been "disastrous" and noted that the company is essentially jettisoning Palm's webOS platform less than 18 months after buying it.

"They want to become a direct competitor of SAP, IBM and Oracle," Volokhine said of HP's strategic shift. "Those are big players."

Credit rating agency Standard & Poor's said meanwhile that it was placing HP's 'A' corporate credit rating and 'A-1' short-term rating on Credit-Watch with negative implications.

Moody's Investors Service changed the long-term and short-term ratings outlook of HP to negative from stable.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

I	N	S		O	P	T	S		S	L	O	P
D	O	T		M	A	I	L		P	O	P	E
A	L	I		A	R	L	O		E	R	I	E
		O	N	E	H	I	T		W	O	N	D
			G	R	A	S			E	A	T	
A	E	R	O		I	S	T		S	P	A	
F	L	A	S	H	I	N	T		H	E	P	A
T	O	Y		A	R	K			V	E	R	Y
			P	R	O		A		L	E	E	
P	A	S	S	I	N	G	F		A	N	C	Y
A	S	I	A		A	L	I		T	H	O	P
T	E	A	L		G	O	R		E	R	A	
H	A	M	M		E	W	E		R	S	K	Y

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Parents Guide to Skin Protection

It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the



lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun.

-- Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.
- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.
- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.
- Use Sunglasses that



block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.



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ANTIPASTI: Bruschetta al Pomodoro
 Carpaccio Zucchini: (Zucchini, Capers, Red Onions, Lemon Juice, Mint, Basil)

PASTA: Linguini Frutti Di Mare (Cherry Tomatoes, Mixed Seafood, Rucola)
 Ravioli Della Regina (Spinach, Ricotta Cheese, White Sauce)



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Pope leads service recalling sins, child abuse

MADRID (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI, seated before a sea of cheering young pilgrims in Madrid, led a service Friday recalling Christ's crucifixion and the world's sins, including rape and crimes against children.

The 84-year-old pontiff presided from a vast white stage in city's Plaza Cibeles square over the Stations of the Cross ritual marking the torments of Jesus Christ's crucifixion and then his resurrection.

It was a solemn moment in the mostly street party-like atmosphere that has overtaken the Spanish capital with more than a million Catholic pilgrims joining the August 16-

21 World Youth Day festivities.

Protests have nevertheless broken out nearby in the city as some Spaniards vented anger over the money spent at a time of sharp economic pain, with more than 45 percent of under-25 year olds registered unemployed.

Benedict first passed in his popemobile by 15 religious statues collected from around Spain, some dating back to the early 17th century, depicting 14 stations of Christ's ordeal, and a weeping Virgin Mary.

The elaborate works of art were spread along a 700-metre (nearly half-mile) route on Paseo de Recoletos avenue.

Dressed in a white cassock and scarlet cape, draped with a gold and scarlet stole, and a white skullcap on his head, the smiling pontiff then took his place on the stage to deafening cheers from waving pilgrims.

The Roman Catholic Church is struggling to deal with rising anger and a string of lawsuits following thousands of child abuse claims in Europe and the United States.

Benedict's ever stronger denunciations of abuse are bringing some changes, however, and national bishops conferences around the world are set to come up with common guidelines against paedophiles by May 2012.

Wreck of 16th century Swedish warship found in Baltic

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - The wreck of a Swedish warship that historians hope is the Mars, head of king Erik XIV's fleet before it sank in the Baltic in 1564, has been found off Sweden's coast, museum officials said on Friday.

A team of divers discovered the wreck at a depth of 75 metres (250 feet), 10 nautical miles (18.5 kilometres) north of the Swedish island of Oland, Stockholm's maritime history museum said in a statement.

The find came after several years of research.

"Everything suggests that it is indeed the Mars that we have found," Richard Lundgren, one of the divers, said in the statement.

"The size and the age of the ship correspond," with historical records, he added.

A stack of corn, the symbol of the Swedish royal family at the time, was found engraved on a cannon, providing another strong clue.

"This is a wreck we have waited a long time to see," said Andreas Olsson, head of the museum's archaeology department, practically cer-

tain that the find is indeed the ship described as "mythical" by the museum.

The remains of the ship will be important for research, he added, particularly in comparison with other recovered finds of historical importance, including the Swedish Vasa which was sunk in 1628, and the British Mare Rose which went down in 1545.

Equipped with 107 cannons and a crew of 800, the Mars was one of the biggest ships of its day.

Just a year after being launched it was sunk in May 1564 during a major battle against the Danish fleet.

More than 450 years later, the experts think the Mars has reappeared and "it seems to be well preserved," though with a hole in its side, Olsson told reporters.

The local Kalmar prefecture has decided to ban diving and fishing in the area to allow the divers and archaeologists to continue their work.

The beautifully restored Vasa is now a major tourist attraction in Stockholm.



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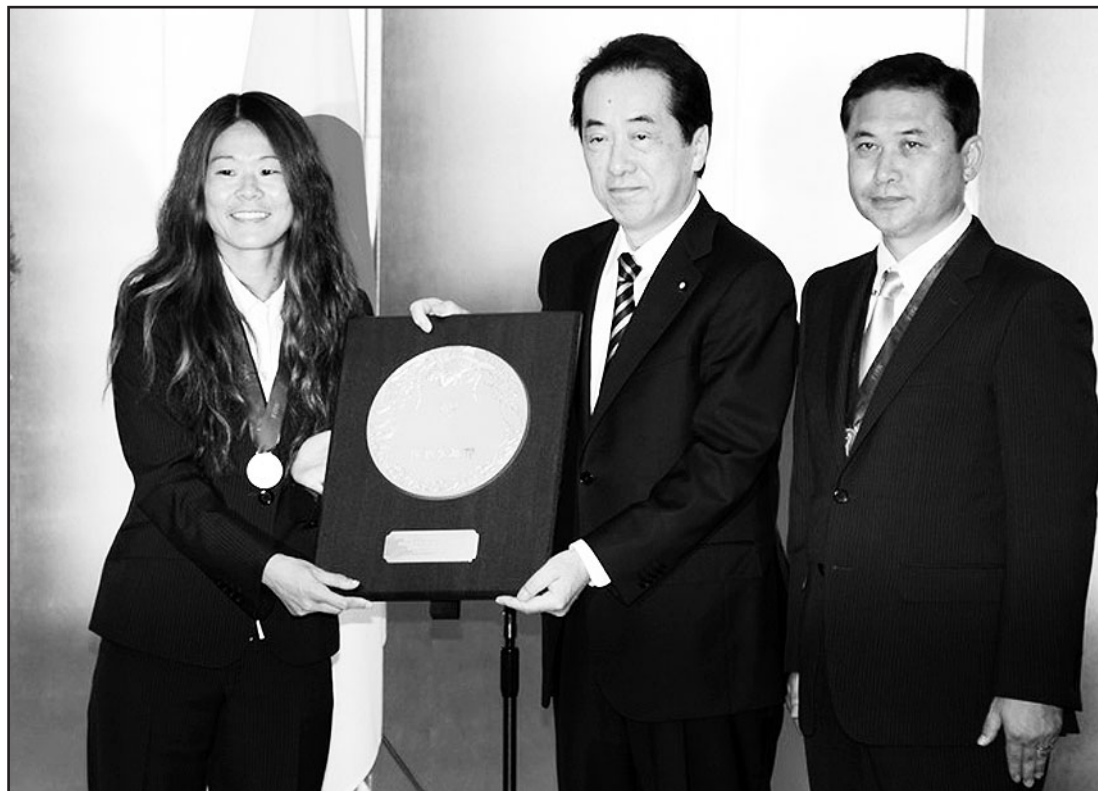
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Japan's Women's soccer team honored



Japan national women's soccer team captain Homare Sawa, left, displays the People's Honor Award plaque with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan, center, as they pose for photographers with head coach Norio Sasaki, right, during the team's awarding ceremony at Kan's official residence in Tokyo, this past week. Sasaki and his women received the People's Honor Award for their victory in the women's World Cup in Germany.

England takes control against India in cricket

LONDON(AFP) - Ian Bell and Kevin Pietersen both scored hundreds to leave England in a position of utter dominance against India on the second day of the fourth and final Test at The Oval here on Friday.

England were 457 for three at stumps, with Bell 181 not out after Pietersen fell for 175. It left England, whose run-fest delighted the bulk of a 23,500 capacity crowd, well-placed to complete a 4-0 series whitewash after replacing India as the world's best Test side with a crushing innings and 242 run victory at Edgbaston last week.

Bell and Pietersen put on exactly 350, surpassing England's previous best partnership against India, also for the third wicket, of 308 shared by Graham Gooch, the team's current batting coach, and Allan Lamb at Lord's in 1990.

It was also England's seventh largest stand for any wicket in all Tests.

But the pair were eventually separated when Pietersen, dropped on 102, fell to a fine return chance by part-time spinner Suresh Raina.

England, with the score on 447 for three, then bizarrely sent in nightwatchman James Anderson, three not out at stumps.

Bell had batted for nearly seven hours, striking two

sixes and 17 fours.

After stumps, a delighted Pietersen told Sky Sports: "It's nice to be able to strike the ball like that today."

And the South Africa-born batsman said he felt no disappointment at missing out on a double century.

Both Bell and Pietersen scored their second century of the series Friday, with Bell having made 159 in a 319-run second Test win at Trent Bridge and Pietersen 202 not out in a 196-run first Test victory at Lord's.

Pietersen's 19th Test century took him level with team-mates Andrew Strauss and Alastair Cook and left him just three shy of the England record of 22 shared by Walter Hammond, Colin Cowdrey and Geoffrey Boycott.

With Bell batting in classic fashion and Pietersen's innings featuring several unorthodox shots, the pair made the most of ideal, sunny batting conditions on a typically good Oval pitch.

India's attack were unable to sustain the improvement that saw openers Cook and England captain Strauss dismissed in Friday's morning session.

Ishant Sharma needed just five balls to make it 75 for one when he had Cook caught at first slip by Virender Sehwag off a good length ball as England failed to add

to their overnight score following a rain-marred first day.

Strauss managed just two runs in an hour Friday against disciplined bowling before, chasing a wide half-volley from seamer Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, he was caught behind by India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni for 40.

But England really took a toll of India's attack after lunch.

Bell struck four boundaries in five balls, including two cover-driven fours off successive deliveries from seamer Sreesanth -- who embarrassingly tried to verbally intimidate Pietersen.

However, Sreesanth -- who ended the day with one for 95 from 23 overs -- insisted he was far from downhearted.

India took the new ball but it made no difference and Pietersen, 98 not out at tea, went to his hundred off the first ball after the break when he pulled a Sharma long-hop for four.

But next ball, trying to repeat the stroke, he got a top-edge only for Gautam Gambhir, running back at mid-on, to drop the two-handed chance.

Bell straight-drove two sixes in as many balls from Amit Mishra and the leg-spinner's 29 wicketless overs thus far had cost 129 runs.



Taj Mahal

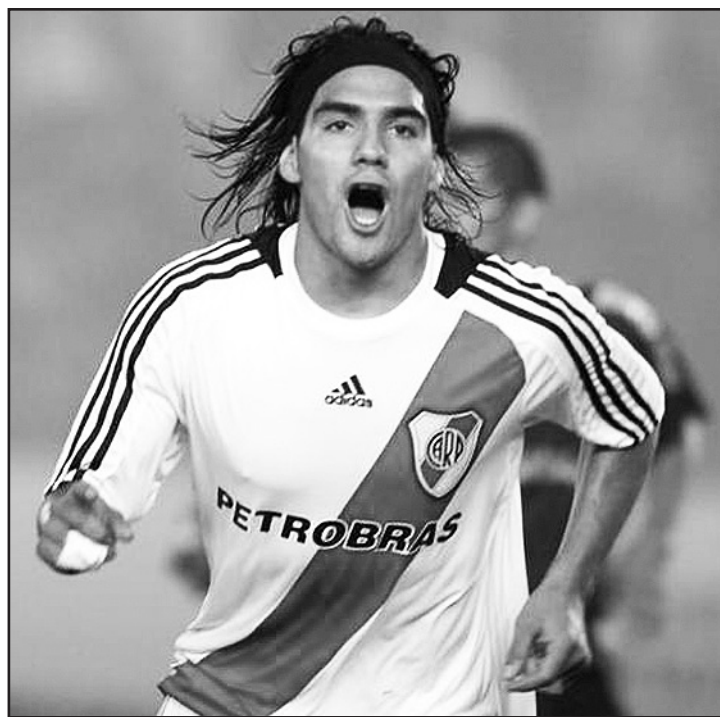
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Atletico Madrid agree 40 million euro Falcao deal



MADRID (AFP) - Atletico Madrid agreed a deal, believed to be worth 40 million euros, to sign Colombian international striker Falcao from Portuguese champions Porto, the Spanish side announced on Thursday.

The deal will also see Portuguese midfielder Ruben Micael move to Spain as Atletico spent most of the 44 million euros they received from Manchester City for Sergio Aguero.

"Atletico Madrid and Porto have reached an agreement for the transfer of Radamel Falcao. The Colombian is going to sign a five-year contract," said a club

statement.

Atletico revealed the deal during their home 2-0 Europa League win over Vitoria Guimaraes with a picture of the player flashed up on the giant screens at the Vicente Calderon stadium.

Signed by Porto in 2009 from River Plate of Argentina, the 25-year-old striker, nicknamed 'The Tiger', scored 16 times in the Portuguese league last season and was top scorer in the Europa League which the Portuguese side won.

Micael, 24, was signed by Porto in 2010 from Nacional Madere.

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Tennis: Fish topples Nadal to reach Cincy semi-finals

CINCINNATI (AFP) - Mardy Fish claimed his first career victory over Rafael Nadal on Friday, beating the weary Spaniard 6-3, 6-4 to reach the semi-finals of the ATP's Cincinnati Masters.

Nadal, the world number two and second seed, had battled through three tiebreakers over three and a half hours to beat Fernando Verdasco.

He was also still playing with two burned fingertips of his left hand heavily taped.

Fish made the most of his opportunity, saving all four break points he faced as he avenged a quarter-final loss to Nadal at Wimbledon.

Fish, who has risen to seventh in the world, said a successful summer season that has included a title in Atlanta and finals appearances at Los Angeles and Montreal had him feeling more confident against Nadal this time.

The American seventh seed faces another top tier opponent in the semi-finals in world number four Andy Murray, who cruised past France's Gilles Simon 6-3, 6-3.

On the women's side of

this US Open tune-up, fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova rolled into the semi-finals for the second straight year, beating Australian Samantha Stosur 6-3, 6-2.

Sharapova will face second-seeded Vera Zvonareva, who let a second-set advantage slip but eventually put away unseeded Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

Sharapova was pleased to be playing better in her last tournament before the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the year that starts in New York on August 29.

Sharapova won a challenge on match point to improve to 3-0 this year and 9-0 in her career against Stosur.

In other men's quarter-final matches, world number one Novak Djokovic faced France's Gael Monfils and third-seeded Roger Federer took on eighth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych.

On the women's side, China's Peng Shuai took on Serbian Jelena Jankovic and Russian Nadia Petrova faced Germany's Andrea Petkovic.

Tennis: Defending champion Clijsters withdraws from US Open

NEW YORK (AFP) - Defending champion Kim Clijsters withdrew from the US Open on Friday because of a stomach muscle injury, throwing the race for the final Grand Slam title of the year wide open.

"Unfortunately, I will not be able to defend my US Open title this year because of a stomach muscle injury," said the 28-year-old Belgian, who was also champion in 2009.

"Two weeks of rehab was not enough to heal this injury. Obviously I'm very disappointed. I trained very hard this summer and felt in a good shape to play the US Open. Clijsters defeated Caroline Wozniacki in the 2009 final after coming out of retirement where she had married and started a family.

Last year, she defended her title when she swept past Russia's Vera Zvonareva.

The world number three, who has been plagued by injuries this year, suffered the stomach strain in Toronto last week when she was forced to

quit her second round match against China's Zheng Jie when she was leading 6-3, 1-2.

The Australian Open champion had previously injured her right ankle in April while dancing at a family wedding.

She then pulled out of tournaments in Rome and Madrid with right shoulder and wrist injuries before losing in the second round at the French Open.

Clijsters was also forced to skip Wimbledon because of a foot injury.

The US Open begins on August 29 but will see a host of top names struggling either with injury or loss of form.

Three-time champion Serena Williams was forced to skip this week's tournament at Cincinnati because of a toe injury while world number one Wozniacki has suffered two consecutive second round defeats since her fourth round loss at Wimbledon.

Wozniacki on Thursday dropped her father Piotr as coach in a dramatic attempt to halt her worrying slump.



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Baseball: Clemens should face new trial - prosecutors

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Prosecutors on Friday said that baseball star Roger Clemens should face a new trial on perjury charges, saying their introduction of inadmissible evidence in his first trial was a mistake.

Clemens had argued the showing of evidence already ruled out by the judge was a deliberate attempt to provoke a mistrial because the prosecution's case was poor.

In documents filed on Friday, prosecutors said it was merely an oversight when they introduced video testimony that a teammate once told his wife that Clemens confessed to using performance-enhancing drugs.

US District Judge Reggie Walton had already ruled that evidence inadmissible and declared a mistrial on the second day of testimony.

"Appropriate redaction was the government's duty," the prosecutors wrote. "The government accepts responsibility for its oversight, and regrets the burdens that error has placed on this court and defendant." But they argued the mistake was due to the press of other trial matters and was not intentional.

Clemens has already argued that a second trial on the same charges would violate his constitutional protection from double jeopardy.

Often, however, a second trial is not considered double jeopardy if the defendant had requested a mistrial in the first proceeding.

The exception would be if



Legendary pitcher Roger Clemens, seen here in 2008

the judge finds prosecutors intentionally provoked the mistrial.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner as his league's top pitcher, was charged with perjury, false statements and obstruction of Congress for telling a US House of Representatives committee under oath that he never used steroids or human growth hormone in his Major League Baseball career.

Clemens, 48, was named in the Mitchell Report in December 2007 as one of 86

players who took performance-enhancing drugs but he steadfastly denied the allegations and pushed for a hearing before Congress.

Clemens, nicknamed "Rocket", is one of only four pitchers to have made more than 4,000 strikeouts during his career.

He won the World Series twice with the New York Yankees in 1999 and 2000. He also played for Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays and Houston Astros during his 23-year career.

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Athletics: Sprinter Dodson arrested in ID theft probe

BOULDER (AFP) - American sprinter Jeremy Dodson was arrested on suspicion of identity theft this week, days before he was due to leave for the athletics World Championships in South Korea.

Dodson, who earned a berth in the 200m at the Worlds, which start in Daegu on August 27, was arrested and released on Wednesday after posting a \$10,000 bond.

He is due in court again on August 26, and a condition of his bond was that he surrender his passport. The 200m preliminaries begin in Daegu on September 2.

Dodson's agent said it was Dodson's identification that

was stolen and the conduct of the unidentified person who apparently used it led to Dodson's arrest. USA Track and Field spokesperson said the federation was "seeking more information" on the matter.

Football: UEFA launches proceedings against Wenger

LONDON (AFP) - Arsene Wenger faces a disciplinary hearing for allegedly breaching the terms of his touchline ban during the Gunners' 1-0 Champions League win over Udinese, UEFA confirmed yesterday.

Wenger, who was banished to the stands for Tuesday's tie

as a result of his spat with match officials during last season's Champions League clash with Barcelona, is accused of passing messages to the Arsenal dugout.

"Disciplinary proceedings have been opened against Arsenal FC manager Arsene Wenger for not abiding by the

decisions of the UEFA control and disciplinary body in relation to the one-match suspension he served during Tuesday's UEFA Champions League play-off game against Udinese," a UEFA statement said.

During Tuesday's match, Wenger appeared to be re-

laying messages to the Arsenal bench via an assistant sitting next to him at the Emirates.

Arsenal immediately confirmed they plan to contest the charges, while Wenger admitted he was baffled by UEFA's decision to open a hearing.



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